

Message Text

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QUOTE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 0700

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE AND NSC

USINFO FOR IO/M, IPS/PE, IEU, IPS/PO - HELGERSON

BONN PLEASE PASS VICE-PRESIDENT'S PARTY AND USIS FOR HUGH MUIR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S PRESS CONFERENCE
IN BRUSSELS, JANUARY 24, FOLLOWING HIS MEETINGS WITH BELGIAN
GOVERNMENT, NATO AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICIALS:
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2. QUOTE: VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE: I HAVE HAD A VERY USEFUL AND
PRODUCTIVE DAY IN BRUSSELS TODAY, MEETING FIRST WITH PRIME MINISTER
TINDEMANS AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET, WITH SECRETARY LUNS AND THE
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, WITH GENERAL HAIG, WITH MR. JENKINS AND
MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION; AND DURING THE COURSE OF THESE
TALKS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN DEPTH WE HAVE DEALT WITH A WHOLE RANGE OF
ISSUES INCLUDING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION,
THE DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING THE MULTI-LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS,
MONETARY PROBLEMS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS AND THE REST. WE
HAVE HAD WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON OUR ENERGY PROGRAM WHICH WE

HOPE TO ANNOUNCE BY APRIL OR MAY OF THIS YEAR AND THE CREATION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. SCHLESINGER. WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT SECURITY MATTERS, EAST-WEST MATTERS, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE RELATIONSHIP OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SO CALLED NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE HAVE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED ISSUES SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS, AND AS A RESULT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP AGREEMENTS ON CONSULTATIONS WHICH WILL LEAD TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN TALKING. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRIP IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEED FOR AND BEGIN THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH OUR TRADITIONAL ALLIES AND FRIENDS. THIS FIRST DAY'S VISIT CONVINCES ME THAT THE TRIP IS IMPORTANT, IT IS TIMELY, IT IS GOING TO BE VERY USEFUL AND I COME AWAY FROM THIS FIRST DAY'S VISIT CONVINCED THAT WE ARE IN A GOOD POSITION TO DEVELOP THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL PERMIT US TO DO A MUCH BETTER JOB OF SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS.

QUESTION: MR. VICE-PRESIDENT YOU MET THIS MORNING WITH GENERAL HAIG PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS THE NATO FORCES IN EUROPE. DID YOU CONVEY TO HIM A REQUEST FOR A RESIGNATION, AND IF NOT, HOW CAN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION JUSTIFY KEEPING A HOLDOVER REPUBLICAN APPOINTEE AND A KEY WATERGATE FIGURE IN THIS POST?

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VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE: I HAVE NOT TALKED TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THIS MATTER SO I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HIS PLANS MIGHT BE.

QUESTION: YOU INDICATED IN THE SPEECH THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE US CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. IF THIS IS NOT MET BY A CORRESPONDING INCREASE OF OTHER NATO MEMBERS, TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO GO IT ALONE?

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE:

THE STATEMENT REFERS TO TWO TYPES OF INCREASES. THE FIRST, WHICH WE ARE PLEDGED TO FULFILL, INVOLVES MODEST INCREASES IN ASSISTANCE THAT IS ALREADY PROGRAMMED AND WE ARE PLEDGED TO FULFILL THAT COMMITMENT. THE SECOND WAS A PLEDGE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF A COORDINATED APPROACH IN WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT ADDITIONAL LEVEL OF SUPPORT SO THAT THERE IS A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT. WE ARE ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN REVIEWING MANY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED, TO IMPROVE THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO - SUCH THINGS AS THE RATIONALIZATION OF COMMAND AND CONTROL, STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, THE QUESTION OF THE PROPER DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS, REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY AND THE MANY OTHER ISSUES THAT NATO HAS BEEN DEALING WITH. WE ARE INTERESTED IN REVIEWING THOSE MATTERS AGAIN IN COOPERATION WITH NATO, ALONG WITH THE FUNDING COMMITMENTS THAT MY SPEECH

REFERS TO.

QUESTION: A FOLLOW UP. DOES THAT MEAN THAT - IF I CAN JUST SPELL THIS OUT - WITHOUT THE SECOND PART - THE COOPERATION IN THE INCREASE IN THE NATO FORCES - WOULD A UNILATERAL INCREASE BY THE UNITED STATES GO BEYOND WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

THE SCHEDULED INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE MET. THE ADDITIONAL INCREASE WOULD TAKE PLACE IF WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE A
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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS.

QUESTION: I AM FROM GREECE, SIR. THE GREEK PEOPLE WOULD TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT YOU HAVE SAID ABOUT DEMOCRACY, INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, AND THE RULE OF LAW. WOULD THESE PRINCIPALS BE APPLIED IN SUCH CASES AS CYPRUS, SIR?

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WE HAVE TALKED IN SOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE CYPRUS DISPUTE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THAT DISPUTE CAN BE RESOLVED IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY. THERE ARE SOME ASPECTS OF WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DO THERE THAT WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE. INDEED THE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE TODAY, BUT WE MUST AWAIT HIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

QUESTION: INAUDIBLE.

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

PRESIDENT CARTER AS YOU MAY KNOW IS A NUCLEAR ENGINEER AND HE IS VERY, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY, ABOUT THE BUILD UP OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS, AND ONE OF THE CENTRAL THEMES OF HIS ADMINISTRATION WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN THE PROLIFERATION OF SUCH WEAPONRY AND OF WEAPONS GRADE MATERIALS, AND AS HE SAID IN HIS INAUGURAL MESSAGE, OVER THE LONG RUN SEEKING THE OBJECTIVE OF EVEN ELIMINATING ENTIRELY THE EXISTENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY IN THIS WORLD. ONE ASPECT OF THAT PROBLEM IS THE SALE OF TECHNICALLY SENSITIVE MATERIALS AND I WILL BE DISCUSSING THAT MATTER DURING MY TRIP WITH THE FRENCH, WITH THE GERMANS AND WITH OTHERS. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER CONFIDENTIALLY WITH THEM AND I THINK THAT IT MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

QUESTION: DID YOU RAISE OR DID ANYONE RAISE THE QUESTION OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP OR PARTICIPATION IN NATO?
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VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

IT WAS RAISED VERY BRIEFLY. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, AS YOU KNOW, HAS NOT YET ASKED FOR MEMBERSHIP. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR POSITION THAT WE SHOULD EVOLVE TOWARD INCLUSION OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY REQUEST IT AND WHEN THE NATO ALLIANCE AGREES TO THAT MEMBERSHIP.

QUESTION:

THIS INCREASE - THIS POTENTIAL INCREASE - IN NATO: HOW DOES THAT JIBE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO CUT THE DEFENSE BUDGET BY FIVE TO SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WE THINK IT IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THAT. WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MAKE SAVINGS THROUGH EFFICIENCIES, MORE EFFECTIVE PROCUREMENT POLICIES, AND OTHERWAYS TO MAKE THOSE SAVINGS WITHOUT CUTTING MUSCLE. THE NATO ALLIANCE IS IMPORTANT TO OUR NATION, AS IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE AND TO THE STABILITY OF THE WORLD. WE ARE COMMITTED TO NATO, WE WANT IT TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE AND DETERRENT. IN ORDER TO DO THAT WE MUST SEE THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES ITS SHARE TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE. THE PROPOSAL BY PRESIDENT CARTER WAS NOT TO CUT MUSCLE BUT TO CUT WASTE AND THERE IS A BIG DISTINCTION.

QUESTION:

SIR, YOU DISCUSSED ECONOMIC QUESTIONS ON YOUR VISIT. IS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF HOLDING A WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE AND CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THAT SUMMIT MIGHT EMBRACE NON-ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AS WELL?

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VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I THINK THAT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT SUMMIT WILL BE HELD MID-YEAR AND ONE OF THE MATTERS THAT I AM DISCUSSING WITH THE LEADERS THAT I AM MEETING WITH IS WHETHER SUCH A SUMMIT SHOULD BE HELD, SUGGESTIONS ON THE AGENDA, SUGGESTIONS AS TO LOCATION AND SO ON; AND I WILL KEEP THOSE SUGGESTIONS CONFIDENTIAL AND BRING THEM TO PRESIDENT CARTER SO THAT JOINTLY THESE LEADERS CAN MAKE A DECISION ON THAT MATTER. THIS DISCUSSION AS TO A SUMMIT, AS YOU MAY KNOW, FOLLOWS FROM PERSONAL TELEPHONE CALLS WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAD WITH MANY OF THESE LEADERS JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.

QUESTION:

DOES YOUR STATEMENT ON SALT AMOUNT TO A PROMISE BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAT IT WILL CLEAR THE DETAILS OF A SALT AGREEMENT WITH NATO ALLIES BEFORE IT'S SIGNED? OR IS IT LIMITED TO CONSULTING WITH NATO ALLIES WHEN THE UNITED STATES PRESENTS A SALT AGREEMENT?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WE WILL WORK IN VERY CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE NATO ALLIANCE IN THE COURSE OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT WE BE IN MUTUAL AGREEMENT, THAT THE NATO ALLIES KNOW WHAT OUR NEGOTIATING POLICIES ARE, AND WE INTEND TO HAVE TIMELY CONSULTATIONS.

QUESTION:

DOES THE PRESIDENT HAVE IN MIND ANY SPECIFIC FIGURE (FOR INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TO NATO)AND SECONDLY, WOULD THAT REQUIRE ANY INCREASE IN U.S. TROOP REQUIREMENTS....?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:
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TO ANSWER THE LAST QUESTION FIRST, WE HAD NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT INCREASES IN FUNDING TO ASSIST IN COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS. THE EXACT AMOUNT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED. IT WOULD DEPEND UPON MANY FACTORS AND WHAT THE ALLIES ARE WILLING TO DO AND THE WISDOM OF THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS. SO THAT IT WAS AN OFFER OF A GENERAL NATURE.

QUESTION:

WILL THERE BE ANY RAPID PROGRESS IN SOLVING SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING MINOR TRADE ISSUES THAT CURRENTLY ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES?

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WE DID NOT GET INTO ANY OF THE CONTENTIOUS BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES IN DEPTH. SOME OF THEM WERE MENTIONED. WHAT WE ALL AGREED WAS IMPORTANT IN THE CONTEXT OF THOSE DIFFERENCES WAS THAT AT THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO RESUME PROGRESS AND MOMENTUM IN GENEVA AT THE MULTI-LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL SHORTLY HAVE OUR SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED, AND THE NEGOTIATOR, AND WE HOPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO IRON OUT THE DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE STALLED THOSE TALKS, TO THAT WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS. WE THINK THAT THIS IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR OBJECTIVES OF AN OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT. AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PROTECTIONIST TENDENCIES EVIDENCED AROUND THE WORLD AND WE FEEL THAT RESPONSIBLY STIMULATING OUR ECONOMIES TO PUT PEOPLE BACK

TO WORK, DOING IT IN A PRUDENT WAY SO AS NOT TO INCREASE INFLATION, COUPLED WITH THE RESUMPTION OF MOMENTUM IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE TALKS, SHOULD PROVIDE A RESPONSIBLE BASIS FOR COUNTRIES TO AVOID PROTECTIONIST STRATEGIES BECAUSE WE PROVIDED A MORE RESPONSIBLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THEM. SO WE HAVE PUT THE RESUMPTION OF MTN PROGRESS VERY HIGH ON OUR LIST OF PRIORITIES AND IN MY TALKS WITH THE LEADERS TODAY THERE WAS VERY STRONG
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APPROVAL OF THAT APPROACH.

QUESTION:

INAUDIBLE.

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT STATEMENT. WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY - THERE ALREADY HAVE BEEN SOME INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GENERAL SECRETARY BRESNEV AND PRESIDENT CARTER - TO REVIEW THE PRESENT STATUS OF SALT, AND I HAVE INDICATED EARLIER THAT WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE NEED FOR CONTROLS OF STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS UP FRONT WILL BE WHETHER WE WILL SIMPLY RATIFY THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD IN TREATY FORM OR WHETHER WE WOULD TRY TO REDUCE THE CEILINGS AND WHETHER WE WOULD TRY IN THAT AGREEMENT TO DEAL WITH BACKFIRE AND CRUISE MISSILES AND SOME OF THE OTHER DIFFICULT ISSUES. THAT WOULD BE A MATTER THAT WE WOULD DISCUSS WITH OUR ALLIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THEN THERE HAS BEEN TALK THAT MAYBE FOLLOWING THAT WE COULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT WE MIGHT CALL SALT III, IF WE DO NOT REDUCE THE LEVELS AND DEAL WITH SOME OF THE OTHER ISSUES, WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN ADDITIONAL EFFORT TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS, RESTRAIN TECHNOLOGICAL TESTING IN THE DEPLOYMENT AND THE REST, TO GET A BETTER CEILING - A LOWER CEILING - ON NUCLEAR STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES; AND IT MAY BE THAT SECOND STEP THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS REFERRING TO BUT I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT PARTICULAR STATEMENT.

QUESTION:

YESTERDAY AT HIS SEND-OFF FOR YOU, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THAT YOU WOULD BE DISCUSSING FUTURE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES THAT WE HOPE WILL IMPROVE THE STRENGTH OF NATO AND OUR OWN FRIENDLY AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR NATURAL ALLIES AND FRIENDS (IN EUROPE).
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CAN YOU SPELL OUT JUST WHAT THESE CHANGES WILL BE, BEYOND THE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO NATO...?

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I SPELLED OUT IN MY SPEECH THE OUTLINE TO WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER WAS REFERRING. IT HAD SEVERAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING THE SUPPORT FOR NATO IN TERMS OF AMERICAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT, WHICH INCLUDED CERTAIN REFORMS IN NATO, THE QUESTION OF EXISTING STOCKS AND SUPPLIES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT AND SOME OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE CLASSIFIED IN NATURE, BUT ALL OF IT GOING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A MORE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT FIGHTING FORCE FOR NATO. THAT IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT WE DISCUSSED. MY SPEECH DESCRIBES OTHER ELEMENTS AND CLOSE CONSULTATION IN TERMS OF SALT, IN TERMS OF MBFR, IN TERMS OF PREPARING FOR THE BELGRADE CONSULTATIONS ON THE HELSINKI ACCORDS COMING UP THIS SPRING - THOSE ARE THE MATTERS TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT WAS REFERRING.

QUESTION:

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME COMMON ACTION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONCERNING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. DID YOU HAVE ANY DISCUSSION WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON CERTAIN PROPOSALS?

VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE:

THE SUBJECT CAME UP VERY BRIEFLY, BUT AS I SAID THERE IS GOING TO BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SECRETARY VANCE TODAY OR THEREAFTER WHICH WILL DEAL WITH THAT ISSUE.

QUESTION:

DURING YOUR NATO CONVERSATIONS, YOU CRITICISED WHAT I BELIEVE YOU CALLED THE RHETORIC OF IMPOTENCE. I WONDER IF YOU COULD

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TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT, SUCH AS WHAT YOU MEANT AND WHO WAS USING THIS RHETORIC.

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

LET ME PUT IT THIS SAY: WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BUILD UP IN EASTERN EUROPE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. AND WE MUST REALISTICALLY SEE IT FOR WHAT IT IS AS A CHALLENGE TO EITHER BE DEALT WITH THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS OR WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN TERMS OF AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE SO THAT THE DETERRENT CAPACITY OF THE NATO ALLIANCE CANNOT BE IN DOUBT. IT IS NOT TODAY, BUT WE CANNOT PERMIT IT TO BECOME A QUESTION AND I THINK THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A PROPER CONCERN AND RESPONSE FOR THIS BUILD-UP IN EASTERN EUROPE, BUT THAT WE NOT EXAGGERATE THE SITUATION TO THE POINT WHERE QUESTIONS ARE RAISED EITHER ABOUT THE PRESENT CREDIBILITY OF THE ALLIANCE OR ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT AND CAPABILITY

TO DEAL WITH THAT CHALLENGE. IT IS MANAGEABLE IF WE ACT WISELY AND RESPONSIBLY AND COOPERATIVELY AND THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO DO ITS PART IN ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE.

QUESTION:

WE HAVE HEARD AN AWFUL LOT FROM YOU AND YOUR AIDES ABOUT CONSULTATION ON SALT - SO MUCH THAT MAYBE WE ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THE CHARACTER OF THE CONSULTATION IS CHANGING OR IS IT SIMPLY THE VOLUME OF IT?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WELL IT IS NOT JUST SALT. THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES - FOR EXAMPLE, MTN, PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXPECTED SUMMIT, CONSULTATIONS ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE MADE SOME PROGRESS TODAY IN TRYING TO HAVE CLOSER COORDINATION WITH THE EC AND WITH OTHERS TO PROVIDE US SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK SHOULD BE IN OUR ENERGY PACKAGE. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE SEVERAL ELEMENTS

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WHERE WE ARE TRYING TO GET THE DIALOGUE GOING BOTH WAYS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, IN WAYS THAT ARE MUTUALLY VALUABLE TO ALL OF US, AND THAT IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT TODAY. NOW INTERMS OF SALT THERE HAVE BEEN QUITEREASONABLE LEVELS OF CONSULTATION UNDERGONE IN THE PAST AND WHAT WE ASSURED THE ALLIANCE TODAY WAS THAT WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO DO THAT IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR PREPARATION FOR AND INCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS OF THE SALT AGREEMENT.

QUESTION:

DO YOU EXPECT THAT THE ALLIES IN WESTERNEUROPE WILL HAVE EVEN A GREATER VOICE IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS OR LESS?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

IT WILL BE AS GOOD AND I HOPE IT WILL BE BETTER.

QUESTION:

IN THE PAST, AS YOU WELL KNOW OUR FORMER SENATOR, MIKE MANSFIELD, (SPONSORED RESOLUTIONS) TO REDUCE TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE. I HAVE TWO QUESTION. DID YOU ALWAYS VOTE AGAINST THAT LEGISLATION? AND NUMBER TWO, I ASSUME FROM WHAT YOU ARE SAYING TODAY THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL OPPOSE ANY MOVE TOWARD UNILATERAL CUTS, PENDING AN MBFR....?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I NEVER VOTED TO REDUCE TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE. I HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED MBFR AS THE WAY TO DO THAT. IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE CAN

GET BOTH SIDES TO MUTUALLY REDUCE FORCELEVELS, ASSURING THE SECURITY OF BOTH SIDESIN THE PROCESS, THEN THAT IS THE WAY TO DO IT. WE WILL NOT UNILATERALLY WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM EUROPE, IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. I AM TOLD INCIDENTALLY THAT THE VANCE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY NOT COME TOMORROW, BUT IT WILL BE COMING.
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QUESTION:

IN WHICH CONTEXT DID YOU DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS AND WHAT ELSE...?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

IN THAT RESPECT IT WAS TOUCHED ON VERY, VERY BRIEFLY IN TERMS OF THE IMPORTANCEOF SEEKING A SETTLEMENT THERE. WE DID NOT GET INTO THAT PARTICULAR ISSUE IN DEPTH.

QUESTION:

DO YOU LINK THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITH THIS FAMOUS TURKISH-AMERICAN AGREEMENT ON BASES?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I WOULD PREFER TO AWAIT THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY VANCE BEFORE I GET INTO THE MERITS OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE.

QUESTION:

I BELIEVE YOU DESCRIBED WHATIS CALLED THE PROGRAMMED INCREASES IN OUR NATO COMMITMENT AS MODEST, BUT CAN YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT THOSE ARE?

VICE-PRESIDENTMONDALE:

WE ARE TRYING TO GET THE EXACT FIGURES. I DON'T HAVE THEM RIGHT NOW BUTWE WILL TRYTO SUPPLY THEM TO YOU. I DON'T HAVE THEM RIGHT NOW.

QUESTION:

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DOESN'T WHAT YOU ARE SAYING MEAN THAT YOU WILL GO ALONG WITH WHAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD PROPOSED

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

IT DOES MORE THAN THAT. THOSE AGREED COMMITMENTS WERE NEGOTI-

ATED AND AGREED UPON BY THE UNITED STATES, BUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ALLIANCE IN OTHER WORDS THAT IS NOT JUST AN EPHEMERAL POLITICAL COMMITMENT? IT IS PART OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NATO ALLIANCE TO FULFILL OUR SHARE OF THE DEFENSE NEEDS IN NATO. SO WE SEE IT AS A RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE SHOULD FULFILL AND WE ARE PREPARED TO DO SO.

QUESTION:

IN YOUR TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS TODAY, DID YOU DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE F-16 FIGHTER PLANE, THE SALE OF WHICH IS BEING DISCUSSED NOW BY FOUR NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

NO WE DID NOT DISCUSS THAT. I SHOULD SAY THAT THE EXACT AMOUNTS, MR. WRIGHT, WILL BE IN OUR BUDGET ON THAT MATTER, (INCREASE OF NATO CONTRIBUTION) BUT I WILL TRY TO GIVE YOU THE EXACT FIGURES.

QUESTION:

IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESUMPTION OF THE SALT TALKS, ARE YOU OR SECRETARY VANCE PLANNING TO VISIT MOSCOW SOON?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH A VISIT, BUT I AM NOT SURE OF THE WORD "SOON".

QUESTION:

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PRESIDENT CARTER, DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, ACCUSED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION OF DEALING TOO OFTEN WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR UPGRADING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY OTHER THAN ASKING YOU TO BEGIN YOUR TRIP IN BRUSSELS?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WELL THIS, WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY IN THE SUPPORT - WE ARE VERY MUCH IN SUPPORT OF THE MOVEMENT FOR EUROPEAN INTERGRATION, AND IT IS SIGNIFICANT AND REFLECTIVE OF THE CARTER POLICY THAT ONE OF THE FIRST STOPS THAT I MADE IN COMING TO EUROPE WAS TO BRUSSELS AND TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY. AND TODAY WE HAD VERY DETAILED TALKS WITH THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMUNITY ABOUT BROADENING THAT RELATIONSHIP; AND SOME OF THE MATTERS ARE STILL CONFIDENTIAL, BUT THOSE ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE AND I THINK IT WILL BE APPARENT THAT WE ARE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE.

QUESTION:

AS A RESULT OF CONTACTS THAT HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON, HAVE YOU REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT REGARD ANY LIKELY INCREASE IN US MILITARY COMMITMENTS TO NATO AS PREJUDICING IN ANY WAY THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT AND MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT MATTER, BUT THE MATTER OF SALT STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS LIMITATION TALKS IS IN MY OPINION A DIFFERENT ISSUE THAN ASSURING A CREDIBLE DETERRENT TO NATO. PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RUSSIAN BUILD UP IT SEEMS TO ME THAT OUR RESPONSE IS APPROPRIATE.

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WERE YOUR TALKS AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WITH MR. JENKINS OR THE FULL COMMISSION?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WE HAD DETAILED TALKS WITH MR. JENKINS AND WITH HIS STAFF AND WE ALSO HAD ABOUT A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH THE COMMISSION.

QUESTION:

DOES SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION ALSO INCLUDE SUPPORT FOR ENLARGEMENT TO COUNTRIES LIKE SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND GREECE?

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

THAT IS AN ISSUE FOR THE COMMISSION. WE WOULD NOT INTEND TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH MATTERS.

QUESTION:

INAUDIBLE

VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE:

WE WOULD CONSIDER THAT A MATTER FOR THE COMMISSION TO DECIDE AND NOT FOR US. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END QUOTE.RENNER

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